C1

30. (Once Amended) The vortex inhibitor of claim 1 wherein the elongated sacrificial member is constructed to dissolve before discharge of molten metal is terminated.

31. (Once Amended) The vortex inhibitor of claim 1 wherein the elongated sacrificial member is constructed to dissolve before the discharge nozzle is closed.

32. (Once Amended) The vortex inhibitor of claim 1 wherein the elongated sacrificial member is constructed to dissolve before entering the discharge nozzle.

33. (Once Amended) The vortex inhibitor of claim 13 wherein the elongated sacrificial member is constructed to dissolve before discharge of molten metal is terminated.

34. (Once Amended) The vortex inhibitor of claim 13 wherein the elongated sacrificial member is constructed to dissolve before the discharge nozzle is closed.

35. (Once Amended) The vortex inhibitor of claim 13 wherein the elongated sacrificial member is constructed to dissolve before entering the discharge nozzle.

C2

36. (New) A method for improving yield of molten metal poured from a discharge nozzle of a metal pouring vessel, the method comprising:

introducing a tapering uniform castable refractory body having a hollow chamber positioned longitudinally to the body extending within the body and an elongated sacrificial member retained by the hollow chamber to form an integral body, whereby the integral body combining the refractory body and the sacrificial member has a specific gravity less than the specific gravity of molten metal, and is self-orienting in an elongated sacrificial member downward position when supported in molten metal; and

maintaining the tapering uniform castable refractory body in the metal pouring vessel during at least a portion of the metal pour, while dissolving the elongated sacrificial member before substantially obstructing the discharged nozzle.

37. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein said dissolving step occurs before discharge of molten metal is terminated.

38. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein said dissolving step occurs before the discharge nozzle is closed.

39. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein said dissolving step occurs before entering the discharge nozzle.